

## Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY

USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

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USSALTTWO/CTB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: JUN: 29 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL  
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

1. HENRY TREWHITT OF BALTIMORE SUN REPORTED THAT ACDA  
DIRECTOR PAUL WARNKE SAID YESTERDAY THAT HE NOW EXPECTS  
COMPLETION OF NEW SALT TREATY BY END OF THIS YEAR. TRE-  
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WHITT SAID WARNKE'S "MORE CAUTIOUS OUTLOOK REFLECTED  
POLITICAL COMPLEXITY OF NEGOTIATIONS." IN INTERVIEW,  
TREWHITT SAID WARNKE STATED THAT PRINCIPAL ISSUES  
UNSETTLED ARE TERMS FOR CONTROLLING BACKFIRE AND QUESTION  
WHETHER EACH GOVERNMENT MAY INTRODUCE NEW LONG-RANGE MIS-  
SILE DURING LIFE OF TREATY. HE SAID WARNKE UNDERLINED  
IMPORTANCE OF BACKFIRE ISSUE BY NOTING THAT IT HAS BEEN

CONDUCTED SINCE 1975 "AT HIGHEST POLITICAL LEVEL," NOT BY SALT NEGOTIATORS IN GENEVA- WARNKE SAID NEW SOVIET OFFER FOR MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS IN CENTRAL EUROPE IS ENCOURAGING, ALTHOUGH TWO SIDES DIFFER ABOUT SIZE OF CURRENT FORCE LEVELS. AT LEAST, WARNKE SAID, "WE ARE NOW NEGOTIATING ON SAME TERMS.

2. JOHN BURNS OF NEW YORK TIMES, IN DISPATCH FROM JOHANNESBURG,

SAID U.S. EFFORTS TO PERSUADE SOUTH AFRICA TO SIGN NPT REPORTEDLY REACHED AN ADVANCED STAGE YESTERDAY AS HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS ENDED TALKS IN PRETORIA. BURNS SAID SOURCES CLOSE TO TALKS DISCLOSED THAT AMBASSADOR GERARD C. SMITH HAD BEEN IN PRETORIA SINCE SUNDAY FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS. BURNS SAID NEITHER SIDE WOULD DIVULGE ANY DETAILS OF WHAT WENT ON OR SAY WHETHER AN AGREEMENT WAS IN PROSPECT. TIMES SAID REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON INDICATED, MEANWHILE, THAT SOUTH AFRICA WAS CONSIDERING SIGNING NPT AND WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT STRICTER INTERNATIONAL CONTROLS TO PREVENT ITS ATOMIC ENERGY PROGRAM FROM BEING USED TO DEVELOP WEAPONS.

3. AVIATION WEEK AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY (JUNE 26) SAID U.S. NEGOTIATORS BELIEVE PROGRESS MADE DURING INITIAL ANTI-SATELLITE SYSTEMS TALKS IN HELSINKI CAN LEAD TO SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS THIS FALL, EVEN THOUGH SOVIETS DID NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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DIRECTLY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THEY ARE CONDUCTING OPERATIONAL KILLER SATELLITE TESTS. MAGAZINE SAID ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS WARNED LAST WEEK THAT SOVIET UNION WILL FACE INCREASED U.S. DEVELOPMENT IN SPACE WEAPONS UNLESS THEY COME TO TERMS ON ANTI-SATELLITE ISSUE. AVIATION WEEK SAID SOVIETS FLEW THEIR 15TH KILLER SATELLITE TEST MAY 19.

4. SYNDICATED COLUMNISTS ROWLAND EVANS AND ROBERT NOVAK CHARGED IN WASHINGTON POST THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S "HUMILIATING TREATMENT" OF CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT IN NEUTRON WARHEAD AFFAIR HAS WEAKENED WEST GERMAN SELF-CONFIDENCE TO HANDLE "ANOTHER ISSUE OF LARGER IMPORTANCE UNDER U.S. LEADERSHIP" -- MOSCOW'S ACCEPTANCE OF "PARITY" IN MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. EVANS AND NOVAK SAID WASHINGTON'S REACTION WAS SWIFT IN APPROVING SOVIET ACCEPTANCE OF PARITY AS MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH, SETTING STAGE FOR "PREDICTABLE NEW SOVIET PROPAGANDA OFFENSIVE IN NAME OF PEACE." BUT THERE ARE CATCHES, THEY POINTED OUT. CATCH ONE IS MOSCOW'S NEW INSISTENCE THAT PARITY ALREADY EXISTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE, MEANING ALL THAT IS NEEDED ARE EQUAL REDUCTIONS ON EACH SIDE TO 700,000. "CATCH TWO IN SOVIET PROPOSAL IS THAT IT IS AIMED STRAIGHT AT WEST GERMANY. IT IGNORES

WEST'S DEMAND THAT 700,000 CEILING BE REACHED BY 'COLLECTIVE' REDUCTIONS, NOT BY ALLOCATIONS TO INDIVIDUAL STATES. MOSCOW'S PROPOSAL AS READ HERE (BONN) WOULD DUMP 'COLLECTIVITY,' DEMANDING COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY CEILINGS. THAT UNDERLINES CARDINAL SOVIET POSTWAR STRATEGY: TO SYSTEMATICALLY REDUCE WEST GERMAN POWER AND INFLUENCE. AS OF TODAY, THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION WILL INSIST BOTH ON TRUE PARITY AND ON COLLECTIVITY, IN LOCK STEP WITH WEST GERMANY AND OTHER NATO COUNTRIES." BUT "QUEASY FEELING" IN BONN STEMS FROM "CARTER'S MIS-

MANAGEMENT OF NEUTRON AFFAIR," EVANS AND NOVAK SUGGESTED.

5. JOHN DILLIN OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR SAID WITHIN UNCLASSIFIED

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NEXT SEVEN YEARS -- PERHAPS EVEN SOONER -- SOVIET UNION IS EXPECTED TO BECOME MILITARILY CAPABLE OF DESTROYING AS MANY AS 90 PERCENT OF AMERICA'S LAND-BASED STRATEGIC MISSILES IN SUDDEN FIRST STRIKE. SOVIET MISSILES PRESENTLY ARE CAPABLE OF DROPPING A WARHEAD WITHIN 1,200 TO 1,500 FEET OF TARGET IN U.S. SOVIETS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY TESTED AN INTERCONTINENTAL MISSILE WITH ACCURACY OF ABOUT 600 FEET, DILLIN SAID. IF U.S. DOES NOT ACT SOON, "MISSILE GAP" IS EXPECTED TO DEVELOP IN 1980S THAT COULD FORCE U.S. INTO WASTEFUL CRASH PROGRAM TO FILL GAP, OR IT COULD RESULT IN PERCEIVED INFERIORITY VIS-A-VIS SOVIET UNION, DILLIN SAID. IF U.S. TRIES TO FILL GAP WITH MX, IT COULD DESTABILIZE NUCLEAR BALANCE, PUTTING "HAIR TRIGGER ON NUCLEAR WAR." HE SAID IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT ANTIBALLISTIC MISSILE WEAPONS BE USED TO DEFEND U.S. MISSILE SITES. "THIS MIGHT MAKE IT UNNECESSARY TO GO TO MOBILE MODE, BUT IT ALSO WOULD REQUIRE ABROGATING MOST SUCCESSFUL ARMS AGREEMENT SO FAR -- ABM TREATY." DILLIN SAID SOME ANALYSTS WORRY THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS NOT MOVING FAST ENOUGH TO GRAPPLE WITH COMING PROBLEMS. VANCE

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